

You are here: [One EPA Workplace](#) / [EPA News](#) / View Post

News Items

2017
1/17

[Jan. 17] Thank you; EPA Exhibit; Automaker Violations; 2016 OECA Report; PSLF Program; Vid. Spot - Newburgh, NY; Step It Up Challenge; Vishing

by Coviello, Nancy at 1:00 PM in [EPA Newsletter](#)



Senior Leadership Message

Hi everyone,

As we come to the end of my time as your Administrator, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to work alongside you at EPA. Thanks to your hard work, the Agency has made tremendous strides in realizing our mission to protect human health and the environment—an accomplishment list way too long to compile in one email.

As I told the President in our [Agency exit memo](#), I am proud to have run my leg of the race with steadfast vigor, leaving a healthier country and stronger EPA.

Thank you for your support and your unwavering commitment to science and the law.

Sincerely,
Gina
Gina McCarthy

Visit the [EPA Transition site](#) to keep up to date on planning for the Presidential transition.

Hot Topics

Acting Deputy Administrator Stan Meiburg announces new EPA exhibit

Last January, the Administrator had the opportunity to visit an environmental exhibit in Japan that included among other things, the story of how the Japanese dealt with the issue of mercury poisoning. When she returned home, she talked with us about EPA having a place at headquarters to let the public learn about the many ways we have helped to improve public health and the environment.

Today, I am very pleased to announce the opening of the new exhibit in the Ronald Reagan Building, "The Story of the Environmental Protection Agency: Protecting Public Health and the Environment." The exhibit takes you through the history of environmental protection in America and explores how the EPA protects public health and the environment by safeguarding the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land on which we live.

It brings to life the many ways the EPA studies public health and environmental issues, sets national standards, responds to natural and man-made disasters and enforces environmental laws. With historical artifacts, imagery and videos, visitors will discover how environmental protection drives America's health, prosperity and innovation.

We were very fortunate to work with the Smithsonian Institution's Exhibits Group, who designed, manufactured and installed the exhibit, and with the General Services Administration and OARM's Office of Administration, who helped to re-purpose the exhibit space. I want to give special thanks to Ioanne Amorosi of OARM for her tireless

Blog Tools

[Create a post](#)
[Manage posts](#)
[Manage comments](#)
[Manage categories](#)

Change post layout:

Boxed ▼

cannot speak. I want to give special thanks to Joanne Ambrose, EPA's first female assistant administrator, for her leadership and energy in bringing the exhibit across the finish line, as we officially cut the green ribbon this afternoon.

The exhibit occupies space on the Mezzanine Level of the Ronald Reagan Building (RRB) (M112) that previously housed the EPA badging office. Approximately 25 to 35 visitors can visit the space at any one time.

I hope you will take time to visit the exhibit and enjoy learning about the proud 46-year history of the EPA, our many accomplishments to improve public health and the environment over those years, and the ongoing work throughout the agency. I also hope you will encourage your relatives, friends and professional associates to visit the exhibit when they are in Washington, D.C.

The self-guided exhibit will be open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (closed, on Federal holidays). It is free and open to the public. Photo ID/security screening is required for RRB access. In February, we will more broadly promote its opening to the many visitors and school groups that visit the RRB.

For further information, visit www.epa.gov/exhibit (webpage will go live Jan. 23).

Updates on automakers' Clean Air Act violations

On Jan. 12, EPA issued a notice of violation to Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V. and FCA US LLC (collectively FCA) for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act for installing and failing to disclose engine management software in light-duty model year 2014, 2015, and 2016 Jeep Grand Cherokees and Dodge Ram 1500 trucks with 3.0 liter diesel engines sold in the United States. The undisclosed software results in increased emissions of nitrogen oxides from the vehicles. The allegations cover roughly 104,000 vehicles. EPA is working in coordination with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), which has also issued a notice of violation to FCA. EPA and CARB have both initiated investigations based on FCA's alleged actions. [Learn more.](#)

Volkswagen Agrees to Plead Guilty

On Jan. 11, Administrator Gina McCarthy joined U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch at a press conference at the U.S. Department of Justice to announce that Volkswagen AG (VW) has agreed to plead guilty to three criminal felony counts and pay a \$2.8 billion criminal penalty as a result of the company's long-running scheme to sell approximately 590,000 diesel vehicles in the United States by using a defeat device to cheat on emissions tests mandated by the EPA and the CARB, and by lying and obstructing justice to further the scheme. [Learn more.](#)

2016 Annual Environmental Enforcement Results

EPA recently announced its 2016 annual enforcement and compliance results, highlighted by a series of high-impact cases that are delivering environmental and public health benefits to communities across the country. During fiscal 2016, which spanned Oct. 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2016, EPA enforcement actions secured \$13.7 billion in investments by companies for projects to control pollution. EPA also secured enforceable commitments that ensure the proper treatment, storage, and disposal of an estimated 62 billion pounds of hazardous waste, the majority coming through a settlement with [Mosaic Fertilizer](#) for their eight facilities across Florida and Louisiana.

Two recent landmark settlements — one with BP Exploration & Production and one with Volkswagen — are among the most comprehensive and impactful environmental cases in U.S. history. On April 4, 2016, the court entered an agreement with BP for a \$20.8 billion settlement to resolve Clean Water Act violations stemming from the Deepwater Horizon blowout and resulting oil spill, with more than \$20 billion going to restore impacted communities and the environment. In a case that was lodged in fiscal 2015 but not entered by the court until Oct. 25, 2016, Volkswagen agreed to spend up to \$14.7 billion on projects to reduce air pollution, remedy environmental damage and buy back 2.0 liter diesel vehicles to settle allegations of using illegal software to cheat emissions tests and deceive customers.

Read more on [EPA's Enforcement Annual Results for Fiscal Year 2016](#) website.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program encourages individuals to enter and remain working full time in public service jobs by helping them reduce their student loans. Under this tax-free program, federal employees may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance due on certain student loans after 120 qualifying payments have been made. To qualify for PSLF, borrowers must:

- Work for their federal agency fulltime;
- Have qualifying federal Direct Loans; and
- Repay their loans under a qualifying repayment plan, either an income-driven repayment plan or the 10-year standard plan.

For borrowers to qualify for PSLF, they need to be on a qualifying repayment plan and submit an Employment Certification Form. The purpose of the form is to confirm for

borrowers that they work for an eligible employer and are making qualifying payments towards loan forgiveness. It is recommended to certify early and often — once a year or any time a borrower's employer changes.
Learn more about the PSLF Program at StudentAid.gov/publicservice.

Contact your organization's Shared Services Center Point of Contact if you have questions related to completing the Employment Certification.

Key Dates

Happening This Week:

Jan. 17: [2017 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Commemoration with Administrator McCarthy](#)

Jan. 19: [Webinar: How to Use Online CFRs](#)

Jan. 20: Inauguration Day

Coming Soon:

Feb. 20: [President's Day holiday observed](#) #TestForRadon

Video Spotlight

Making a Visible Difference In Newburgh, NY: Bringing Stakeholders Together

EPA is working to bring focused attention and coordinated action in more than 50 environmentally overburdened, underserved, and economically distressed communities. This involves listening to community leaders and residents to understand their needs and then working with local, state, and other federal partners to leverage our collective resources in support of local goals. In this video, watch how we are helping the city of Newburgh, New York, bring stakeholders together to work on specific targeted development in the city. (Video length 1:01)

Health & Wellness

EPA 2017 Step It Up Challenge

EPA is committed to providing employees with a healthy work-life balance. To promote a physically active lifestyle for all employees and encourage friendly competition among EPA locations, register for the EPA 2017 Step It Up Challenge.

Running from Jan. 16 – April 16, the challenge will motivate and support participants as they track their daily steps and "step up" their activity levels to accrue as many steps as possible. While there is no specific recommendation for daily number of steps, the American College of Sports Medicine suggests 10,000 steps (five miles) per day as a good long-term goal. In addition to the primary challenge goal of taking more steps each day, participants can also log minutes of light-, moderate-, and vigorous-intensity exercise not otherwise covered by tracking steps. The more steps and minutes of exercise tracked, the greater the number of points earned.

Visit the [Challenge site](#) to register, and check it often throughout the challenge to see the rankings of top locations and individuals.

For more information about the EPA 2017 Step It Up Challenge, contact your [wellness coordinator](#) or visit the [Challenge site](#). We look forward to your participation and wish you luck with your fitness goals.

IT Corner

Beware of VISHING

The number of reported vishing attempts at EPA has significantly increased in recent months. Vishing is a telephone scam where cyber criminals call you posing as legitimate companies or organizations, such as a helpdesk, bank, or credit card company, in an attempt to obtain sensitive information. Successful vishing attempts allow cyber criminals to obtain information, such as login credentials or personally identifiable information, and gain access to your computer in some cases.

Protect Yourself

Ask for identification and a call back number.

Determine if the call is unsolicited or a cold call.

Never give out sensitive or personal information over the phone without verifying the

caller's identity and need to know.

Don't trust caller ID.

If vishing is suspected, document the call – the information requested, the caller's phone number, and any other pertinent information. Immediately report the incident to the EPA Call Center.

Knowledge is key to thwarting vishing attempts and protecting sensitive information.

- Know how to contact the [EPA Call Center](#) [1-866-411-4EPA (4372)].
- Know your [Information Security Officer \(ISO\)](#).
- Know how to [Report an Incident](#).

For more information about vishing and other cybersecurity threats, visit [CSIRC Informational Advisories](#).

Like Comment ...

0 comments

There are no comments for this post.

Add a comment

Post

[EPA Home](#)

[Workplace Home](#)

[EPA Locator](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Whistleblower
Protection](#)

[News Archives](#)

[Contact Us](#)